UNITED NATIONS

CAAS

International Convention against
Apartheid in Sports

Distr.
LIMITED

CAAS/C/1992/L.2
23 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION AGAINST APARTHEID IN SPORTS
Third session
28-30 October 1992

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. Under the terms of the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports is to meet once a year. However, it was not able to meet in 1991 owing to non-payment of contributions by a number of States parties. The Commission has been facing a financial crisis for the last two years. Therefore, the duration of the meeting was shortened to three days in order to ensure efficiency and some savings.

2. The Commission shall consider reports submitted to it by States parties on measures taken by them to give effect to the provisions of the Convention; it shall examine, in particular, the implementation of the provisions of article 10; and it shall report annually, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly and make recommendations on action to be undertaken.

3. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Commission shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

4. Many important developments have taken place in South Africa, although not in a pattern of steady progress, since the last meeting of the Commission. These developments include, inter alia, the release of political prisoners, the abrogation of apartheid laws and the commencement of negotiations to bring about a peaceful end to apartheid in South Africa.

5. In 1991 South Africa was readmitted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The participation of teams from South Africa in the Barcelona Olympic Games of 1992, organized on a non-racial basis, flying their own flag and carrying their own emblem, represented the first time that non-racial South African teams were able to compete internationally. While this development was supported by important political forces in South Africa,

others, both inside and outside South Africa, were critical of this development. The Secretariat requested all interested parties to present their views on these and other issues. Replies received have been circulated to the members.

6. In previous meetings of the Commission in 1989 and 1990, representatives of national and international sporting organizations contributed to the work of the Commission. A number of representatives of these organizations were also invited this year. This year the meeting of the Commission differs from previous meetings, owing to the participation of organizations involved in the sports question from inside South Africa. Their participation has been made possible through the cooperation extended to the Commission by the Special Committee against Apartheid.

7. The Special Committee against Apartheid issued the Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa for the first time in 1982. Later, the Register became an important instrument in the boycott of apartheid in sports. The latest issue of the Register was released on 23 April 1991. This matter is reviewed in document CAAS/C/1992/L.3.

8. Only six States parties have presented reports under article 12, paragraph 1, of the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports. These reports have been compiled in document CAAS/C/1992/L.4. During the Meeting of the States parties, on 10 June and 21 July 1992, several States parties stated their reservations with regard to convening a meeting of the Commission, owing to the lack of a sufficient number of reports for consideration.

9. The General Assembly, in the preamble to its resolution 40/64 G, by which it adopted and opened for signature the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, expressed its conviction that the Convention would be an important instrument towards the isolation of the racist regime of South Africa and the elimination of apartheid in sports. In article 10, paragraph 5, of the Convention, it is stated that the provisions relating specifically to South Africa shall cease to apply when the system of apartheid is abolished in that country. For the Commission's consideration of the present status of the Convention, the Secretariat provided document CAAS/C/1992/L.5.

10. The report of the Commission on its third session is of special importance because it will be considered by both the General Assembly and the Meeting of the States parties in determining the status of the Convention, including the question of future meetings of the Commission.